

Dead Des. 11th N. J. 1880
Camp Shurcliff Va
March 1st 1883 -

Dear Mother

I received your
very kind letter in due time
and was very glad to hear
from you. I do not get
letters from you quite as
regular as I used to, but
I suppose you have enough to
attend to without writing, as long
as you can get Garrison to do
it well. I used to like to have
him do the most of the writing my-
self, when he was here, but now
I don't see any other way to do

but to write.

We have had very fine weather for the past few days, but now the snow is all gone and it is raining which makes it very muddy and disagreeable. But we do not mind that as long as we are permitted to stay in our comfortable camp, and do not have to be "toting" a knapsack through it. I think we are very lucky to stay in camp as long as we have been. we have not had to move but once in four months, the longest we have remained in one place since we have been in the service. But it is coming Spring now, or rather to day is the first day of Spring and we probably will have to be a "digging out" before long.

General Sheridan left here day before yesterday morning at

at the head of a large force of
Cavalry, has gone up the
Valley. It is supposed that he
intends to meet with some
other force. probably at Staunton
or some other point up there.
You probably will hear something
from him before long, for
Phil. would not go out with
a Cavalry force for nothing.
his force is variously estimated
at from 12,000 to 18,000 of Good
Cavalry.

Our War news has been very
good lately and I hope it
will continue to be as good
until the "infernal machine"
is wound up. which I don't think
will be long. for I cannot see how
it can last a great while longer
at the rate it is going on now.
Major General Hancock is here
and in command, his new

Corps of Veterans are expected
to come here.

The most of our Corps is now in
Savannah ~~here~~. and it is talked
that we are going to join
them. but that is only a camp story.

I wish they would send us down
there. We have got a new

Chaplain and a new Chappel.
it is constructed of Logs and
covered with a large canvas
which makes quite a comfortable
Church. there will be preaching
to morrow night for the first
time in the 114th NYols ~~is a~~
for nearly two years. I dont know
as it is quite as long as that
but not over six times since
we have been in the service.

Well I think I have written all
the news, so Good night, Give my love
to all,
Yours Affctly J. L. Rand